

**52
DAYS**
to go until
the Unit
Compliance
Inspection

TODAY: Mostly cloudy
with isolated showers
NE winds @ 8-15 knots
High: 86 Low: 75

SATURDAY: Mostly cloudy
with rain showers
E winds @ 10-20 knots
High: 82 Low: 77

SUNDAY: Mostly cloudy
with rain showers
E winds @ 15-30 knots
High: 82 Low: 77

**FRIDAY MORNING'S
COMMUNITY BANK
EXCHANGE RATES**
BUYING: \$1=¥107 SELLING: ¥112=¥1

Typhoon Nabi spares Kadena

By Master Sgt.
Adam Johnston
18th Wing Public Affairs

Korean mythology may have been the saving grace for Kadena residents last weekend as Typhoon Nabi barely nicked Okinawa.

Nabi – a typhoon that reached super typhoon strength with winds clocked at more than 130 knots (approximately 150 mph) – was named after the Korean word for butterfly under a regional storm naming system adopted by the World Meteorological Organization in 2000 to help raise awareness and prompt people to listen to typhoon warnings in the region.

Korean mythology posits that a yellow butterfly brings good fortune.

“Fortunately it didn’t hit us straight on like was earlier forecast,” said 2nd Lt. Kevin Bourne, a duty officer with the 18th Operations Support Squadron weather flight.

“There was some minor damage to the base but nothing major,” said Mark Wheeler, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron deputy. “There was some damage to roofs at Okuma and one roof in military housing,” he said.

See NABI, Page 4



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell
Master Sgt. Tod Beckwith, 18th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, watches Staff Sgt. Allan Rhodes tow an F-15C Eagle out of a hardened aircraft shelter here Tuesday, as Typhoon Nabi heads toward the Japanese island of Kyushu. Last week maintenance crews sheltered aircraft as part of normal typhoon preparations to reduce potential damage to each \$30 million aircraft stationed in “Typhoon Alley.”

Market analyst sheds civvies for higher calling after 9-11

By 1st Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez
18th Wing Public Affairs

Maybe it was seeing the thick layers of ash and dust that covered everything within blocks of the impact point that made him do it.

Maybe it was the sight of once prominent—now broken—glass buildings surrounding two 10-story piles of rubble that stood at the center—where thousands died.

Or maybe it was the thousands of posters showing the faces of the missing posted in desperation along Church Street and locations throughout downtown New York City.

Prior to witnessing those sights with his own eyes, 2nd Lt. Aaron Thomas had no intentions of ever joining the military.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell

Second Lt. Aaron Thomas, a former market analyst, had no intentions of ever joining the military. 9-11 changed that. He now works at the 18th Contracting Squadron.

9-11 changed that.

He knew no one in the military or anything about it. “I didn’t even have an understanding of what enlisted and

officers were,” he said.

The Salt Lake City native graduated from college and had a bright future in corpo-

See 9-11, Page 4

Former POW, 67th Fighter Squadron pilot to return

By Staff Jason Lake
18th Wing Public Affairs

Just over 40 years ago, a 20mm-cannon misfired on a Kadena-based F-105 Thunderchief causing the gun to explode, crippling the aircraft and causing the pilot to eject and land among North Vietnamese troops.

Maj. Wesley Schierman, who was on his 37th mission, managed to stay hidden the first three times the enemy search party combed his area, but the American pilot was found during the fourth pass on Aug. 28, 1965.

For the next seven and a half years, the Lancaster, Wash. native was a prisoner of war and held at the “Hanoi Hilton” prison camp.

He was eventually released from captivity Feb. 12, 1973.

Now, 40 years later, Mr. Schierman is coming back to the unit where his struggle began. The retired major will honor fellow prisoners of war and servicemembers still missing in action.

Mr. Schierman will be the guest speaker at Kadena’s POW/MIA ceremony Sept. 16 at the 18th Wing headquarters flagpole at 6:30 a.m.

The event will be followed by a breakfast at the Rocker NCO Club at 8 a.m.

For more information about the two events e-mail Master Sgt. Gregory Loflin on the Kadena network or call 634-5894.

9/11 CEREMONY AT BASE FLAG POLES SUNDAY AT 8 A.M.



Unit culture: Poison or antidote?

Lt. Col. Chris Comeau
909th Air Refueling
Squadron commander

Leaders, from noncommissioned officers to commanders, should be aware of their unit's culture because it can affect mission performance and even lead to mission failure. Ever wonder why crazy things happen in a unit despite everyone's efforts to lead, manage and control? The subtle factor is the unit's culture.

Edgar Schein, a college professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, offers a simple definition of organizational culture - "the way we do things around here." In the Air Force, culture is the unit's collective of values, norms, beliefs and practices. Even further it involves people and personalities, schedules and processes, work environment and climate, artifacts and icons in addition to a myriad of other features.

Normally, the most important thing a leader does is define the unit's mission and vision for the troops. This establishes the reason and direction for the organization -- a baseline for unit culture (attitudes, norms and beliefs). Take, for example, the 18th Wing commander's American Forces

"First, it's important to create an atmosphere where it's safe for others to generally speak up on issues and discuss culture. Whether personnel agree or not, it's critical to garner their buy-in on unit culture."

Network commercial about "being ready when the nation calls and being good wingmen." That indicates our leader's priorities, around which everything revolves, shaping our attitudes, beliefs and operating norms. While these messages usually last the tenure of a leader's command, it's important for new leaders to articulate their vision early and often to define the sense of being for the unit.

There are two primary ways leaders can shape unit culture.

First, it's important to create an atmosphere where it's safe for others to speak up on issues and discuss culture. Whether personnel agree or not, it's critical to garner their buy-in on unit culture. Buy-in promotes support since they are part of creating the unit culture. Also, by establishing an open, enabling environment, units create a more synergistic, responsive work force for focusing efforts on the mission at hand.

Second, every leader must model behavior in the unit by setting the example. Fortunately, the Air Force core values provide us a simple framework for appropriate behaviors. Other behaviors such as cooperation, facilitation, nurturing, communication, collaboration, mentoring, and good order and discipline depend on the culture one wants to create in the unit. These roles may seem daunting, but it is not just the leaders that bear the burden.

Your unit culture's development does not lie exclusively on the leader's shoulders. Responsibility for unit culture is the leader's burden, but everyone in the unit shares equally in shaping it.

A couple of ways for unit members to contribute are to be responsive and participate (take ownership), and the other is to take care of unit icons and artifacts. The first method is pretty obvious, whereas dealing with artifacts may seem a little more obscure. Artifacts are items

that identify the unit and are primary tools for newcomers or those outside the unit to gain an understanding of what's important.

Artifacts include posters, pictures, bulletin boards, posted unit policies, decorations and overall unit presentation (cleanliness and general upkeep). Having everyone attentive to unit artifacts ensures the unit continues to regenerate and shows what's important to the unit.

Unit culture plays a very important role in creating an environment where all unit members feel welcome to participate in all aspects of the unit's activities.

We can nurture, shape and mold unit culture into an antidote to ensure mission success, or ignore unit culture and let it stagnate, degenerate and lapse into a poison for mission failure. Let's be aware and attentive to our unit cultures. As leaders at all levels, we can all increase mission performance.

ACTION LINES

E-mail: 18wg.cchotline @kadena.af.mil



Brig. Gen. Jan-Marc Jouas
18th Wing commander

The 18th Wing is very interested in ideas that can make Kadena an even better place to live, work and play. If you have a concern that you have been unable to resolve through normal chains of command, then we'll look into it. Although not required, it's better to give commanders, first sergeants or the agencies with which you have the concern the opportunity to correct the situation first. When that fails, send us an e-mail. Include your name and telephone number so someone can get back to you, and a brief summary of your concern.

Safety first

I live near the new white wall that has been installed for lodging. While driving from my house toward Gate 2, the white wall blocks the view of traffic. It has the possibility of causing accidents. Can you do something about this?

Thanks for bringing this safety concern to my attention. When first conceived, the corners of the protective wall were evaluated for bollards and turned-in corners. Unfortunately the density of underground utilities prevented the use of bollards (which require deep foundations), and turned-in walls do not meet the requirement for stand off distance at these locations.

I drove to both intersections to see the problem for myself, and agree that there is a visibility problem if you stop at the current stop line. Our plan now is to move the stop sign and pavement markings forward so that drivers can pull farther forward and not have their visibility obstructed. We are confident that this can be done safely, without interfering with traffic on Kuter Blvd. I've instructed these changes to be made immediately and not wait until the end of the project.



SHOGUN WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Airman David Drake

18th Logistics Readiness Squadron, storage and issue clerk
Hometown: Lompoc, Calif.

Reason for nomination: Airman Drake single-handedly runs supply swing shift operations for the unit's main warehouse, issuing more than 500 assets and processing 20 mission capable shipments weekly in support of 18th Wing and Pacific Air Forces flying operations.

Time at Kadena: 8 months

Editor's note: Shogun Warriors are selected by unit leaders for their outstanding value to their unit and dedication to the Kadena mission. To nominate someone, send the name of your nominee to your unit commander or senior enlisted leaders.



It has been...

6 days

since the last DUI arrest on Kadena.
60 days = 18th Wing 'Down Day'



18th Wing Commander.....Brig. Gen. Jan-Marc Jouas
Public Affairs Chief.....Lt. Col. Michael Paoli
Deputy Public Affairs Chief.....Capt. Carlos Diaz
PA Superintendent.....Senior Master Sgt. Ken Fidler

Kadena Air Base Editorial Staff

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For editorial submissions, send E-mail to kadenashogun.newspaper@kadena.af.mil.

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Z-Z-1-3 hits the streets



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell

Capt. Amber Brugnoli, (left) 18th Wing legal office, Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Ewertz, 18th Medical Operations Squadron, Airman Chad Tew, 353rd Maintenance Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Chris Alfonso, 353rd MXS, talk about the new Z-Z-1-3 campaign outside the Kadena post office. The newly implemented Z-Z-1-3 program is designed to promote anti-alcohol abuse and is based on successful 0-0-1-3 programs used at other Air Force bases.

WINGMAN LOST: Sachio Yamashiro, a paint stripping crew foreman with the 18th Civil Engineering Squadron, died this week. Colleagues gathered for a memorial service Wednesday.

POW/MIA RECOGNITION: A ceremony for National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held at the base flagpole at 6:30 a.m. Sept. 16 followed by a breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Rocker NCO Club. The ceremonies are held to remember the sacrifices made by prisoners of wars and to recognize those still missing in action. For more information call Master Sgt. Gregory Loflin at 634-5894.

9/11 CEREMONY: There will be a 9/11 Remembrance ceremony at the 18th Wing Headquarters flagpole beginning at 8 a.m. Sunday.

KHS PATRIOT DAY: The Kadena High School combined choirs and JROTC color guard will host a patriotic ceremony Monday at 6 p.m. in the KHS auditorium.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY: The Air Force is looking for strategic debriefers/linguists, Air Force Specialty Code 8D000. A briefing from the functional manager takes place Monday at 9 a.m. in the McDaniel Center for Professional Development, Bldg. 3445. Officers and enlisted members are welcome to attend.

KADENA HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: Kadena High School will host an open house Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m. All parents are encouraged to attend, follow their children's schedule and talk with teachers. For more information, call 634-1216.

MAIL SERVICE SUSPENDED BY HURRICANE: Currently the postal service isn't accepting standard mail from any source to the

following three digit ZIP codes: 369, 393-396, 700, 701 and 704. Express mail is suspended to the following ZIP codes: 365, 366, 369, 393-396, 700, 701, 703 and 704. For more information on ZIP codes affected by Hurricane Katrina, visit the Kadena postal center or visit <http://www.usps.com>.

AF BALL: The 2005 Air Force Ball kicks off at the Rocker NCO Club Sept. 17 beginning at 6 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. To purchase tickets or for more information call 634-3845.

AIR FORCE RECRUITER ARRIVES: People between the ages of 17 and 27 interested in joining the active duty Air Force can call 632-7835 or visit the recruiter's office at Building 721, Room D-101 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays.

CIVILIAN HIRES: Effective Nov. 1, all vacancy announcements for Kadena will be advertised by the Air Force Personnel Center at the following website: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

Both internal and external applicants will apply for positions through the self-nomination process. Applications will no longer be accepted at the Kadena Civilian Personnel Office. For more information, call the Civilian Personnel Flight at 634-1358.

AAFES ADDS CONCESSIONS ONLINE: Army Air Force Exchange Services recently added four new vendors to its virtual concession website - CentricMall.com. All four new concession sites provide unique products, with exclusive savings to military service members and their families.

Authorized customers can shop CentricMall.com at aafes.com, usmc-mccs.org, navy-nex.com or cg-exchange.com.

VA BENEFITS INFORMATION: A Veteran Affairs representative is available for individ-

ual appointments every Thursday and Friday at the Kadena Family Support Center. There will also be a group VA benefits briefing at the FSC every fourth Friday of each month from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Call 634-3366 to make an appointment or to register for the briefing.

FIGHTER WING HERITAGE: The 18th Fighter Wing Association is looking for new members. All 18th Wing members are eligible to join and help keep the wing's legacy alive. For more information, contact Barry Agovino at aggsmail@adelphia.net.

JOINT DUTY CREDIT: Active-duty officers in the grades of major and above, and some captains, are eligible to receive joint duty credit for deployments due to a recently expanded list of approved operations.

The joint duty credit only applies to officers deployed for at least 90 continuous days to an approved combined joint task force headquarters staff.

The cumulative credit may be used in combination with a present or future joint duty assignment to allow early departure from a joint duty position.

The legislation does not apply to officers serving in the medical, legal or chaplain career fields.

Captains who filled a valid major or above billet may also receive the joint duty credit. Officers can access the JTF credit Web page at https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/jtf/owa/jtf_main.home for self-nomination application procedures and a list of approved operations.

The Web page also lists required supporting documentation to verify proof of service.

For more information, such as where to fax or e-mail supporting documentation, visit the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/jom/> or call 665-3720.

Okinawa Perspective

The following is a synopsis of articles that appeared recently in Japanese newspapers.

□ Two Japan Air Self-Defense Force F-15s collided Tuesday forcing emergency landings at Chitose Air Base in northern mainland Japan. Both aircraft landed safely and neither pilot was injured. This was the first incident for the 2nd Air Wing since 1991. The unit had just celebrated 5,000 days without an accident on Aug. 22. JASDF officials invited media to Chitose AB Sept. 6 to observe two the F-15s that collided.

□ The Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau notified the Okinawa Prefectural Government that a wild fire erupted near Range 7 at the Camp Hansen Training Range at approximately 1:15 p.m. Sept. 7. The U.S. military dispatched a helicopter and extinguished the fire at around 3 p.m.

□ The Defense Agency, as part of its aerial defense project, included a budget request to upgrade an aging fleet of F-4s with F-15s for Japanese Fiscal Year 2006. Approximately 6.6 billion yen will be required for preparation for the upgrade including hangar upgrades. Naha Air Base is expected to be involved in this project since it operates approximately 24 F-4s from the base co-located at the prefecture's airport.

□ Defense Minister Yoshinori Ono said the U.S. Forces Japan transformation discussions will most likely be delayed a month until October due to the national elections Sunday.

□ Japanese Emperor Akihito expressed his condolences to President George Bush for the deaths of Southern residents caused by Hurricane Katrina last week. The Japanese government said it would provide \$200,000 in cash to the American Red Cross and offered up to \$300,000 worth of tents, blankets and other supplies for victims.

□ During testimony at Naha District Court, Dag Thompson, a former civilian employee at Kadena Air Base and alleged trespasser and rapist, said that he suffered mental abuse during interrogation by Japanese police officers. According to Thompson, a detective tore up a family picture of the Thompson's, imposed mental pressure, and ignored his request for a lawyer. An Okinawa Prefectural Police spokesperson refused to comment on the testimony while the trial is in progress.

KADENA SPOTLIGHTS

• Congratulations to the following senior airmen who recently graduated from the Kadena Airman Leadership School – Class 05G: **Kenneth Alexander**, 353rd Maintenance Squadron; **Rodolfo Ando Jr.**, 82nd Reconnaissance Squadron; **Kimberly Andrews**, 353rd Operations Support Squadron; **Christopher Barnes II**, 18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron; **Adam Bauer**, 718th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Jafet Benavides**, 18th Component Maintenance Squadron; **Michael Berish**, 353rd Special Operations Group; **Jeremie Brown**, 18th CMS; **William Brown Jr.**, 353rd MXS; **Bruce Brusco**, 18th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Jonathan Byars**, 18th Munitions Squadron; **Jacob Charron**, 18th Communications Squadron; **Davis Christopher**, 18th Operations Support Squadron; **Luke Coleman**, 18th CMS; **Perris Coleman**, 18th EMS; **Joshua Cyr**, 353rd MXS; **Terry Dowell Jr.**, 353rd MXS; **Joshua Edwards**, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Keith Ellis**, 18th CMS; **Robert Emerson**, 18th MUNS; **Kevin Franklin Jr.**, 18th CES; **Luis Garcia**, 31st Rescue Squadron; **Samuel Hall Jr.**, 67th Fighter Squadron; **Corinne Hobson**, 1st Special Operations Squadron; **Craig Howard**, 18th MUNS; **Oralia Howard**, 18th EMS; **Bobby Humphrey**, 18th LRS; **Cornellia Isaac**, 353rd MXS; **Jessica Jeffress**, 18th EMS; **Simon Johnson**, Detachment 3 – Pacific Air Forces Air Postal Squadron; **Abraham Lailson**, 18th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **James Lanicek**, 18th MUNS; **Michelle Leak**, 18th Medical Operations Squadron; **Jonathan Lemke**, 353rd MXS; **Donny Lenore**, 733rd Air Mobility Squadron; **Aqueelah Lucas**, 733rd AMS; **Patrick McCavana**, 718th AMXS; **Branden McMorris**, 718th AMXS; **Stephen Mendoza**, 18th AMXS; **Daryn Moran**, 18th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; **Andre Morgan**, 18th CES; **Pleas Nelson**, 18th AMXS; **Sanny Odulio**, 718th AMXS; **James Owens**, 18th CMS; **Brad Pollock**, 18th EMS; **Jorge Rodriguez Jr.**, 18th AMXS; **Michael Russell**, 718th AMXS; **Anthony Schoonover**, 18th LRS; **Ronnie Sibley Jr.**, 18th LRS; **John Spitzer**, 718th AMXS; **Syneya Staley**, 18th Maintenance Operations Squadron; **Durham Stewart**, 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron; **James Taimango**, 718th AMXS; **Veronica Thelen**, 353rd OSS; **Kevin Tolman**, 18th LRS; **Sean Turner**, 353rd MXS; **Brian Walker**, 733rd AMS; **Steven Wallace Jr.**, 18th MUNS; **Benjamin Walters**, 18th EMS; **Darrio Wells**, 18th MUNS; **Michael Willard**, 18th Security Forces Squadron.

- John L. Levittow Award - **Darrio Wells**, 18th MUNS.

- Leadership Award - **John Spitzer**, 718th AMXS.

- Academic Achievement Award - **Anthony Schoonover**, 18th LRS.

- Distinguished Graduates - **Kimberly Andrews**, 353rd OSS; **Keith Ellis**, 18th CMS; **Luis Garcia**, 31st RQS; **Anthony Schoonover**, 18th LRS; **Durham Stewart**, 961st AACs.

• Congratulations to **Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan Hurt**, 18th Wing, who was recently named the Company Grade Officer of the Month (July) at Baghdad International Airport and **Senior Airman Jonathan Carpenter**, 18th Wing chaplain assistant, who was named the Airman of the Month (July) at Baghdad International Airport.

• **Capt. Aaron Larose**, formerly assigned to the 909th Air Refueling Squadron, was recently named the Air Mobility Command's Airlift Tanker Association Young Leadership Award winner.

• **Senior Master Sgt. Bryant Cole**, 718th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, recently received Pacific Air Forces' 2005 General Lew Allen award for his contributions to sortie generation and mission contribution.

• Congratulations to the residents of Dorm 141 for winning the Kadena Dorm of the Quarter. The winning unit, 18th Munitions Squadron, was awarded \$1,500 for recreational activities and dorm improvements, while the second place unit, 353rd Maintenance Squadron, was awarded \$1,000.

• **Master Sgt. Miles Kerr**, 18th Wing Inspector General office, represented the Air Force while attending the Marine Corp's Senior NCO Academy at Camp Butler, and was presented a special recognition award from the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps for writing a "superior" paper during the course. He was also named an honor graduate for maintaining an average within the top fifth percentile of the class.

NABI: 'Minor damage to the base'

Continued from Page 1

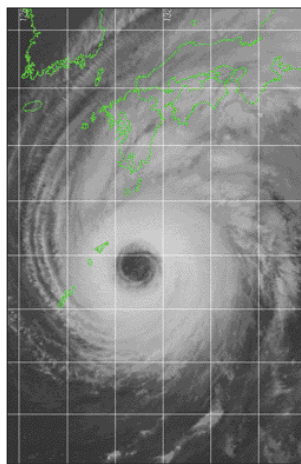
Mr. Wheeler said there was no major cleanup required after this particular typhoon, but he did say that facility managers across the base were asked to cleanup any trash or typhoon-related debris around their facilities.

He also acknowledged that civil engineer crews picked up some items in common areas and the Kadena Pride Team collected items during their normal patrols around the base.

Although the storm caused minimal damage to the base, the only impact could have been much worse had the storm stayed on track for Okinawa.

As a precautionary measure, officials placed U.S. military bases throughout Okinawa into Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness 1 (Caution) at 8:45 p.m. Sunday. TC-1C limits all outdoor activity on base to all but those in direct support of urgent military missions, and requires all non-mission-essential people to be in their home.

"Everyone took this storm pretty serious and folks need to keep that focus for future storms," said Lieu-



Satellite photo

The closest Typhoon Nabi came to Kadena was about 178 miles Monday at around 4 a.m.

tenant Bourne. "This storm had the potential to be very dangerous," he said. "At one point the winds near the center were 175 knots (about 201mph)." But as the storm started

nearing Okinawa it also started to shift and head east away from the subtropical island referred to as the Keystone of the Pacific.

"The closest the storm came to Kadena was about 173 miles on Monday at 4 a.m.," Lieutenant Bourne said Wednesday. The top wind speed clocked at Kadena during the storm reached 46 knots (about 53 mph) on Sunday night at about 11:30 p.m.

Lieutenant Bourne also said the base received less than an inch of rain from the storm but he added that typhoon winds blow the rain sideways which hinders precise rainfall readings.

While rainfall from Typhoon Nabi appeared limited at Kadena, Lieutenant Bourne said, "The north end of the island got dumped on."

Because typhoons in this area referred to as "Typhoon Alley" can originate as close as two hundred miles away, Lieutenant Bourne said residents need to maintain a typhoon kit to help them weather such storms.

Typhoon season in Okinawa typically lasts from June to November.

9-11: Market analyst turns into Airman

Continued from Page 1

rate America—one that many dream of. He traveled to New York City for a job interview shortly after the attack on the Twin Towers. He was hired and started working just north of the city in Stamford, Conn.—an area where many companies relocated after the terrorist attacks.

"I was a market analyst for the world's largest corporate brands broker," said Lieutenant Thomas.

The lieutenant was doing excellent work and on the fast-track, just as his older brothers—both successful businessmen—had done before him.

"I became the lead analyst for the corporate headquarters," he said.

He lived in an upscale part of town and drove a late model Range Rover SUV. His comfortable lifestyle even included once attending a private holiday party hosted by celebrity Martha Stewart. But the lifestyle and flourishing career were not enough.

"I just felt every day that I wasn't in the right place," he said. "I wasn't doing what I should be doing."

Lieutenant Thomas became engrossed in the news coverage of the war in Afghanistan following 9-11.

He started looking into joining the military—and conveniently, the Air Force recruiter was the closest one. As he contemplated signing up, he revealed his intentions to his boss. The CEO responded by offering him a transfer to London to work for the city's second largest retailer.

"My boss told me to go to London first, check it out, and then make the decision," said Lieutenant Thomas. But he was determined to serve in the military.

In late 2003 he reported to officer

training school at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

"I didn't even attend my college graduation," said Lieutenant Thomas. "Because it was no big deal, it was expected in my family."

The graduation from OTS was different.

"I made my entire family come out," he said. "My graduation from OTS was very important to me. They all loved it."

Lieutenant Thomas said his friends and family quickly warmed up to the idea of his military service and he's happy with his choice.

"What I love about being in the Air Force—and I don't feel I could get elsewhere—is that we're involved in a good cause," said the lieutenant, referring to the war on terror.

As a contracting officer in the 18th Contracting Squadron, he has seen first-hand the positive actions of the Air Force.

"I arrived here last December dur-

ing the tsunami disaster," said Lieutenant Thomas. "I saw the contracting office writing contracts for goods to send down for the relief efforts."

"To be a part of that, a part of helping those who can't help themselves...that's what it's all about."

Lieutenant Thomas was lucky in landing an Air Force job related to what he successfully did as a civilian.

"I feel like I have the greatest job in the world," he said. "I really love business and I'm in contracting."

Ultimately he looks forward to deploying and helping out in the struggle that led him to the Air Force. It all goes back to his visit to ground zero.

"That was something that television and news reports cannot explain," he said. "The burnt smell, the 10 stories of concrete rubble where the twin towers once stood, the 'missing posters' of those who perished...it made a big impression on me."

Family Readiness Fair



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell

Meline Hasings (left) and Vonda Ware give information about the Helpline to Rose Mary Cook, wife of Staff Sgt. Shelby Cook, 18th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and daughters Mariah, 9, Alissa, 7, and Jasmine, 5. A variety of organizations were on hand Sept. 2 to provide help, information and answer questions for family members of Kadena's deployed or deploying Airmen.

Kadena medics provide lifeline in air

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Val Gempis
Air Force Print News

Capt. Donna Hornberger held a satellite phone as her aircraft headed for an unknown airport in the middle of the night during a medical evacuation mission from Saipan. Their mission, she said, was to help a severely injured young child who was run over by a truck. The child was in critical condition and needed neurosurgery.

"Because of limited communication resources at the airport, we used a satellite phone to coordinate important information (among) us, Saipan and Kadena Air Base," said Captain Hornberger, a flight nurse with the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron here. "We let them know what equipment we had, and we asked if an ambulance would be waiting when we got to the airport."

The improvised communication worked well and the aeromedical evacuation crew transported the patient aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker. Within hours, the crew safely handed the child to an ambulance crew from a hospital at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.



Air Force/Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Capt. Jennifer Prosser (right) checks the temperature inside a neonatal transportation system here while Staff Sgt. Joe Lueders observes. Sergeant Lueders is an aeromedical technician, and Captain Prosser is a flight nurse. Both are assigned to the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Although using a satellite phone during an aeromedical flight is unusual, improvisation like this demonstrates good operational assessment skills and the flexibility 18th AES medics possess.

"You have to think on your feet here," Captain Hornberger said. "Unlike in a hospital where you have support teams helping you, when we fly, we're pretty much on our own."

The mission of the squadron is to provide a flexible, seam-

less and responsive aeromedical evacuation system capable of prompt and appropriate patient movement. Their area of responsibility stretches from the North Pole to the South Pole, and the East Coast of Madagascar to the U.S. West Coast.

The Airmen said their presence helps ease the minds of about 540,000 U.S. Pacific Command people potentially needing a higher level of medical care.

Specially trained aeromedical evacuation technicians and flight nurses make up a team. The number of people on a team depends on the mission requirements.

Once in the air, the group monitors and administers required medications to patients. But according to the Airmen, their job is not as easy as it sounds.

Capt. Jennifer Prosser, also a flight nurse, said working in a noisy, vibrating and sometimes hot aircraft presents unique challenges.

The Airmen have to know the stresses of flight and their effect on the medics and the patients, Captain Prosser said. Sometimes something as simple as inserting an IV needle can prove difficult. Also, understanding the equipment inside the aircraft is critical. Flight nurses and technicians here are especially careful when working with electrical equipment, the captain said.

"We know how to be (nurses), but in order to be a good flight nurse you have to tie your aircraft and medical knowledge together so you can safely help patients in the air," said Capt. Andrea Whitney, also an 18th AES flight nurse.

And to effectively combine their skills, the squadron's Airmen said constant and rigorous training is key.

"We're always getting tested here," said Staff Sgt. Joe Lueders, a technician.

The Airmen are universally qualified to fly on various aircraft, he said, but to maintain currencies on these planes, they have to regularly pass evaluations and no-notice checks. The goal of these evaluations is patient safety, Sergeant Lueders said.

"No flights ever get wasted here," he said. "We're either working or training."

In 2004, the unit launched more than 250 aeromedical evacuation missions aboard KC-135 aircraft from the 909th Air Refueling Squadron. They moved almost 500 patients across the Pacific Region and to the U.S. About 90 percent of those people were urgent or priority moves.

They were the first aeromedical evacuation unit in the Air Force that evacuated an infant in a neonatal transportation system aboard a KC-135 in 2003. They also transported the first severe acute respiratory patient from Vietnam to Taiwan in 2004.

Aircrew proves 'global reach' during AE mission

By 1st Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez
18th Wing Public Affairs

Working a 12-hour shift may seem long for some, but an aircrew here went beyond that when they pulled a 23-hour workday that included a 15-hour flight from Kadena to Philadelphia to help an injured child.

Kadena Airmen evacuated a 2-year-old girl with head injuries via a KC-135 Stratotanker for special treatment in Pennsylvania during a flight that crossed 11 time zones and logged nearly 8,000 miles.

"Before this sortie, my longest was a 13.8 [hour mission] I flew during Operation Enduring Freedom," said Tech. Sgt. Bobby Ryan, 909th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator.

To overcome the obvious fatigue factor of working such a long day, the aircrew was beefed up with additional members.

"I was the instructor pilot added on to augment the scheduled [aeromedical evacuation] crew," said Maj. Rich Messina, 909th ARS assistant director of operations. "To increase the crew duty day to 24-hours, an extra pilot and boom operator are added to allow the opportunity for rest cycles while airborne."

This too was the longest KC-135 mission for Major Messina, who had previously flown 10 and 11 hour sorties.

"On two different occasions, Canadian controllers queried us about our origin," Major Messina said. "Not too many aircraft from Okinawa transit Canadian airspace."

The KC-135's principal mission of air refueling makes it ideal for long trips.

"The KC-135 has 10 fuel tanks located in the wings and body of the aircraft," said Capt. Todd Abshire, 909th ARS pilot and primary aircraft com-

mander during this mission. "We can hold around 200,000 pounds of fuel—and the fuel that we can offload can also be used for our own engines."

Getting the aircraft to Philadelphia on that late July mission took around 142,000 pounds of fuel, or just under 22,000 gallons, said Capt. Abshire.

The day of the flight did not start smoothly due to a radio outage, said the major. The crew had to switch aircraft.

"Despite the intense heat, everyone pulled together to switch the patient support pallet, all the [aeromedical evacuation] equipment, and the patient to a different jet in order to get us airborne," he said.

The 909th ARS flies AE missions regularly along with medical technicians from the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Recently, another crew evacuated a severely injured boy from Saipan to Hawaii after the child was accidentally run over (see story above).

"The 909th ARS and 18th AES are close partners in providing the best air evacuation transportation system in the world," said Captain Abshire.

Aeromedical evacuation may not be the bread and butter of the 909th, but it's worth the time and effort, according to the aircrew.

"The AE mission usually gives the crew a huge sense of satisfaction being able to help those in need," said Major Messina.

"The mission was, in my opinion, a worthwhile experience that I can tell my wife and kids and everyone else about," said Captain Abshire.

Both pilots also credit and express their gratitude to the maintainers of the 718th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron for having the jets mission ready.

"It's truly a team effort," said the major. "In the last two years, the AE mission has become a very big part of our day-to-day operations."

The Air Force AE mission was previously done by a dedicated aircraft—the C-9 Nightingale—and crew. The C-9 fleet was retired in 2003 and the mission was transferred to other aircraft, such as the KC-135's.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell

Senior Master Sgt. Colton Crowder, (left) Maj. Rich Messina, Capt. Cindy McCullough, Capt. Mark Lennon and Tech. Sgt. Bobby Ryan were part of the crew that took part in a 15-hour non-stop mission to Philadelphia.

TODAY

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Flashback Fridays starts at 5 p.m.

EMERY LANES: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

* Thunder Bowl is open from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

BATH HOUSE TOUR: Call Kadena Information, Tickets and Travel at 634-4322 for more information.

SATURDAY

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Hip Hop to Dirty South, Reggae and R&B starts at 8 p.m.

COLORAMA: Win cash and prizes at Emery Lanes. Sign-ups start at 6 p.m. and bowling starts at 7 p.m. Call 634-2290 for more information.

ITT TOURS: Take a Battle of Okinawa tour with Kadena Information, Tickets and Travel. Call 634-4322 for more information.

* Call 634-4322 for more information about the Blue Indigo Project & Bashofu Weaving Studio tour.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Top 40 Variety Dance Hits begin at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Game Show Mania starts at 7 p.m.

ITT TOURS: Relax at Laguna Garden Hotel during a tour with Kadena Information, Tickets and Travel. Call 634-4322 for more information.

* Call 634-4322 for more information about the Sacred Places, Shrines and Temples tour.

MONDAY

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Juke Box Jams starts at 6 p.m.

FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Game Show Night begins at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Pool tournament starts at 7 p.m.

FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

OFFICE PARTY: Begins at 5 p.m. at the Rocker NCO Club.

WEDNESDAY

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from

It's magic!



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell

Samantha Ford and Reggie Felton watch as magician Bob Nixon pulls a rope through his body during a magic and comedy show Aug. 25 attended by more than 70 children and parents at the Kadena Youth Center. The youth center hosts various activities for children: youth dances, instructional classes, clubs and open recreation for all ages. The Kadena Youth Center will kick off a children's version of the Air Force fitness program called fit-factor Oct. 1. from 5 to 7 p.m.

7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Membership Night starts at 7 p.m. with a buffet-style dinner followed by entertainment, games and prizes from 9 p.m. to close.

* Dart tournament starts at 7 p.m. Call 634-4428 or 634-0644 for more information about joining a dart league.

* Ladies Night begins at 8 p.m.

DRAW-A-PRICE BOWLING: Pick a ping pong ball out of a jar and pay the amount listed for each game bowled. Prizes vary from a quarter to a dollar. Call 634-2290 for more information.

FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

ITT TOURS: Take the Park and Play tour with Kadena Information, Tickets and Travel. Call 634-4322 for more information.

* Call 634-4322 for more information about the tea ceremony tour.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP NIGHT: Begins at 5 p.m. at the Officers Club.

MEMBERSHIP NIGHT: Kicks off with a free buffet at 5 p.m. followed by games, prizes and entertainment at the Rocker NCO Club.

LADIES NIGHT: Starts at 8 p.m. at the Rocker NCO Club.

THURSDAY

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Fired Up for Country starts at 7 p.m.

FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

KRAZY KARAOKE: Begins at 7 p.m. at the Rocker NCO Club.

SEPT. 16

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Flashback Fridays

starts at 5 p.m.

EMERY LANES: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

* Thunder Bowl is open from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

URASHIMA DINNER THEATER: Call Kadena Information, Tickets and Travel at 634-4322 for more information.

SEPT. 17

OKUMAFEST: Festivities start at 10 a.m. at Okuma Resort. Highlights include live music, Chinese acrobatics and fireworks.

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Hip Hop to Dirty South, Reggae and R&B starts at 8 p.m.

ITT TOURS: Celebrate OkumaFest with Kadena Information, Tickets and Travel. Call 634-4322 for more information.

* Call 634-4322 for more information about the Shuri Castle Park and Moonlight Fair tour.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Top 40 Variety Dance Hits begin at 7 p.m.

CARD & COMIC SHOW: Starts at 10 a.m. at the Schilling Community Center. Vendor tables are \$5 on a first come first serve basis. Admission is free.

HOME BUSINESS SHOW: Check out products and services provided by various businesses to work at home. Begins at 10 a.m. at the Schilling Community Center.

SEPT. 18

OKUMAFEST: Festivities start at 10 a.m. at Okuma Resort. Highlights include live music, a belly dance performance and laser show.

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Game show mania starts at 7 p.m.

ITT TOURS: Take the Tunnel Rats tour with Kadena Information, Tickets and Travel. Call 634-4322 for more information.

* Call 634-4322 for more information about the OkumaFest tour.

SEPT. 19

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Juke Box Jams starts at 6 p.m.

FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a

parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Game Show Night begins at 7 p.m.

SEPT. 20

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Pool tournament starts at 7 p.m.

FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

UDUI THEATER & NAHA SHOPPING: Call Kadena Information, Tickets and Travel at 634-4322 for more information.

OFFICE PARTY: Begins at 5 p.m. at the Rocker NCO Club.

SEPT. 21

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Dart tournament starts at 7 p.m. Call 634-4428 or 634-0644 for more information about joining a dart league.

* Ladies Night begins at 8 p.m.

FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT: Movies featuring stars such as John Wayne, Grace Kelly and others start at 6 p.m. at the Kadena Library.

LADIES NIGHT: Starts at 8 p.m. at the Rocker NCO Club.

SEPT. 22

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Fired Up for Country starts at 7 p.m.

FREE BOWLING: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

100 YEN SHOPPING TOUR: Call Kadena Information, Tickets and Travel at 634-4322 for more information.

KRAZY KARAOKE: Begins at 7 p.m. at the Rocker NCO Club.

SEPT. 23

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Social Hour from 7 to 9 p.m. in the lounge.

* Flashback Fridays starts at 5 p.m.

EMERY LANES: Children ages 9-18 bowl for free from 2:30 to 5 p.m. (except holidays). A form (available at the front desk) must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to participation. Call 634-2290 for more information.

* Thunder Bowl is open from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

SEPT. 24

BANYAN TREE CLUB: Hip Hop to Dirty South, Reggae and R&B starts at 8 p.m.

40 FRAME GAME: Signups start at 6 p.m., and bowling begins at 7 p.m. Call 634-2290 for more information.

ITT TOURS: Take the Zamami Island Day tour with Kadena Information, Tickets and Travel. Call 634-4322 for more information.

* Call 634-4322 for more information about the Okinawa World tour.

ROCKER NCO CLUB: Smooth Mixes and Jazz and Easy Listening Variety begins at 7 p.m.

* Super Ladies Night starts at 10 p.m.

HANDMADE CRAFTS FAIR: Check out Americana, wood shelves, baskets and other crafts at the Schilling Community Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MOVIE IN THE PARK: Watch Batman movies and enjoy free popcorn and drinks beginning at 8 p.m.

MOVIES

Patrons should call Keystone Theater at 634-1869 or Butler Theater at 645-3465 to verify movie titles, showtimes and ratings.

* First Run shows are marked by an asterisk.

Keystone Theater

▲ Today.....*Just Like Heaven, PG-13, 7 p.m.

*Duce Bigalow, R, 9 p.m.

▲ Saturday...Fantastic Four, PG-13, noon

The Island, PG-13, 4 p.m.

*Duce Bigalow, R, 7 p.m.

▲ Sunday.....Fantastic Four, PG-13, noon

The Island, PG-13, 4 p.m.

*Duce Bigalow, R, 7 p.m.

▲ Monday.....*Duce Bigalow, R, 7 p.m.

▲ Tuesday.....High Tension, R, 7 p.m.

▲ Wednesday...High Tension, R, 7 p.m.

▲ Thursday....The Island PG-13, 7 p.m.

Butler Theater

▲ Today.....Kicking and Screaming, PG, 7 p.m.

The Island, PG-13, 10 p.m.

▲ Saturday...*Valiant, G, 1 p.m.

*Valiant, G, 4 p.m.

The Island, PG-13, 7 p.m.

High Tension, R, 10 p.m.

▲ Sunday...*Valiant, G, 1 p.m.

*Valiant, G, 4 p.m.

Fantastic Four, PG-13, 7 p.m.

CHAPTER

Catholic

▲ Monday through Friday: Mass, Chapel 2, noon.

▲ Saturday: Confession, Chapel 2, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass, Chapel 2, 5 p.m.

▲ Sunday: Mass, Chapel 3, 8:45 a.m.

Mass, Chapel 1, 12:30 and 5 p.m.

Protestant

▲ Wednesday: Bible Study, Chapel 2, 7 p.m.

▲ Sunday: Inspirational, Chapel 2, 8:30 a.m.

Liturgical, Chapel 3, 8:45 a.m.

Evangelical, Chapel 1, 9 a.m.

Traditional, Chapel 2, 10:30 a.m.

Gospel, Chapel 3, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday school, Bldg. 327, 8:45 & 10:45 a.m.

▲ Hindu service: Mondays, Chapel 1, noon

▲ Eastern Orthodox services: Call 645-7486

▲ Jewish services: Call 637-1027

▲ Islamic services: Call 636-3219



Guard F-16s arrive

Twelve F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 181st Fighter Wing of the Indiana Air National Guard arrived at Kadena Sept. 1 as part of an approximately one-month training deployment.

TAXI: F-16s from the 113th Fighter Squadron taxi on the Kadena flight line.

SHADES: Senior Airman Jeffery Wernz marshalls an F-16 in the reflection of Tech. Sgt. Don Loscar's sunglasses. Both are crewchiefs.

FLY: F-16s will fly here as part of flight and combat proficiency training.

STOP: Crewchiefs marshall an F-16 on the Kadena tarmac. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)